

REMARKS

Responsive to the final Office Action mailed March 28, 2003, the Examiner's comments and cited art have been studied.

Amendments

Applicant has amended each of the independent claims 1, 11, 21, 29, 35, and 36 to add the limitation that the "first resilient material is a polyurethane," incorporating the limitation found in claims 10, 20, 28, and 35.

Applicant has further amended claim 29 to resolve certain informalities discovered during Applicant's review of the claims. The amendment does not change the intended scope of the claim.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-13, 15-19, 21-23, 27, 29, 30, 33-34, and 36-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Pittman, U.S. Patent No. 3,319,537. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 11, 21, 29, and 36 to incorporate the limitation contained in objected claims 10, 20, 28, and 40, namely, that the "first resilient material is a polyurethane." Pittman fails to recite such a limitation, as is recognized by the Office Action's willingness to allow claims 10, 20, 28, and 40 if rewritten in independent form. For this reason, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

Claims 2-3, 5-9, 12-13, 15-19, 22-23, 27, 30, 33-34, and 37-39 depend from allowable claims 1, 11, 21, 29, and 36, and are therefore also allowable. For this reason, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

Claims 1-7, 11-17, 21-24, 26, 29-31, 33, and 35-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Dailey, U.S. Patent No. 3,136,228. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 11, 21, 29, and 36 to incorporate the limitation contained in objected claims 10, 20, 28, and 40, namely, that the "first resilient material is a polyurethane." Dailey fails to recite such a limitation, as is recognized by the Office Action's willingness to allow claims 10, 20, 28, and 40 if rewritten in independent form. For this reason, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

Claims 2-7, 12-17, 22-24, 26, 30-31, 33, and 37 depend from allowable claims 1, 11, 21, 29, and 36, and are therefore also allowable. For this reason, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

Claim Objections

Claims 10, 20, 28, and 40 are objected to as depending upon a rejected basic claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the

base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has cancelled claims 10, 20, 28, and 40, incorporating the limitation that "the first resilient material is a polyurethane" into their respective base claims.

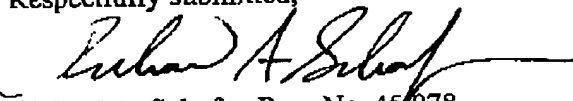
CONCLUSION

The prior art made of record, but not specifically cited, is not believed to disclose any significant information that is not sufficiently discussed in this Request.

It is respectfully submitted that all issues and rejections have been adequately addressed and that all claims as amended and pending following entry of this Request are now allowable and that the case should be advanced to issuance.

If the Examiner has any questions or wishes to discuss the claims as amended, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


Richard A. Schafer, Reg. No. 45,078

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AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP
711 Louisiana, Suite 1900
Houston, Texas 77002
Telephone: (713) 220-5800
Facsimile: (713) 236-0822